PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIM

1. (proposed amended claim) A method for backing up a computer-readable object stored on a first logical device unit, the method comprising:

when the object is not currently mirrored to a mass storage device, creating a mirror for the object on a second logical device unit;

when the object and the mirror for the object are split, resyncing the object with the mirror for the object;

splitting the object and the mirror for the object so that the mirror becomes a backup copy of the object and so that I/O requests directed to the object are not automatically directed to the mirror;

retrieving a first instance of a current timestamp from the second logical device unit and saving it as a saved timestamp;

updating the current timestamp upon executing any I/O operation directed to the second logical device unit that alters data stored on the second logical device unit; and

when the object is determined to need to be restored from the mirror,

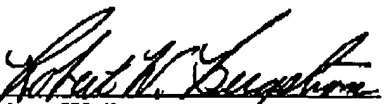
retrieving a second instance of the current timestamp from the second logical device unit;

comparing the retrieved second instance of the current timestamp to the saved timestamp; ~~and~~

when the second instance of the current timestamp is equal to the saved timestamp, copying the mirror to the first logical device unit to replace or again create the object on the first logical device unit; and

when the instance of the current timestamp is not equal to the saved timestamp, returning an indication that the mirror has been potentially altered, and may no longer be a backup copy for the object.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert A. Cochran et al.
Olympic Patent Works PLLC



Robert W. Bergstrom
Registration No. 39,906